

**Amendment to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Canceled)

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a molded plastic article having a sheet material surface piece comprising the steps of: (a) providing a precut thin, semi-rigid sheet material surface piece selected from the group consisting of: metal, wood and wood-based paper products to a mold cavity; (b) molding in a first molding step a substrate plastic component having adhered to a surface thereof the sheet material piece having edges and a surface area; and (c) molding onto the substrate plastic and if you in a second molding step an edge-covering component which overlaps at least part of the sheet material edges and sheet material surface area adjacent the edges but not covering an area of the adhered sheet material surface piece that provides a part of the article surface.

8. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 7 where, in the first molding step, the precut sheet material surface piece is adhered in the molding step to a continuous plastic substrate and the adhered sheet material surface piece is provided with an edge thickness covering that will cover at least a part of the thicknesses of the peripheral edges of the sheet material.

9. (Original) A process according to Claim 7 where the molded-on edge-covering component is provided directly to the substrate plastic component with adhered

sheet material that results from the first molding step without intermediate trimming, cutting or tooling.

10. (Original) A process according to Claim 7 wherein the sheet material is a laminate structure comprising the sheet material, an interior adhesive layer and, on the surface opposite the sheet material layer, a protective backing layer which bonds or otherwise adheres to the substrate plastic and protects the adhesive layer during the molding step.

11. (Original) A process according to Claim 7 where the second molding step uses a flow leader effect with (a) a main flow leader cavity for the edge-covering plastic component material which main flow cavity is generally around and outside the area of the peripheral sheet material edges and (b) a sheet material edge cavity that receives a flow of the edge-covering material in a direction that is generally not parallel to the peripheral edges of the sheet material.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 7 where, in the first molding step, the substrate plastic completely covers the back side of the sheet material piece.

16. (Previously Presented) A process according to Claim 15 where, in the first molding step, the precut sheet material is slightly smaller than the cavity and the substrate plastic provides a protective edge thickness covering that covers at least a part of the thicknesses of the peripheral edges of the sheet material.

17. (New) A process according to Claim 7 wherein the adhered sheet material surface piece is a thin metal sheet or foil.

18. (New) A process according to Claim 17 wherein the adhered sheet material surface piece is a thin stainless steel foil.

19. (New) A process according to Claim 17 wherein the adhered thin metal sheet or foil has a thickness in the range of from about 0.01 mm to about 6.0 mm.

20. (New) A process according to Claim 17 wherein the adhered thin metal sheet or foil has a thickness of less than 2.0 mm.

21. (New) A process according to Claim 7 wherein the adhered sheet material surface piece is a coated metal foil or sheet.

22. (New) A process according to Claim 21 wherein the adhered sheet material surface piece is a coated stainless steel foil.

23. (New) A process according to Claim 22 wherein the stainless steel foil has a thickness less than 2.0 mm.

24. (New) A process according to Claim 7 wherein the sheet material is a laminate structure comprising the sheet material, an interior adhesive layer and, on the surface opposite the sheet material layer, a protective backing layer which bonds or otherwise adheres to the substrate plastic and protects the adhesive layer during the molding step.